

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

USSS-00 IO-14 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /120 W
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O 241305Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4108

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3233

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO CEASEFIRE

SUMMARY: SADAT'S DECISION TO ACCEPT CEASEFIRE APPEARS TO BE
UNPOPULAR IN EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL REACTION IN EGYPT TO CEASEFIRE APPEARS TO BE
NEGATIVE. AT STREET LEVEL, MANY EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO BE
CONSUMED WITH DOUBT AND SUSPICION AS TO REASONS FOR CEASEFIRE
AS LONG AS MILITARY SITUATION APPEARS TO BE GOOD. MANY BELIEVE
THAT, WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ISRAEL WILL NOT HONOR CEASE-
FIRE, AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SADAT ACCEPTED CEASEFIRE
RESOLUTION WHICH APPEARS TO BE TO EGYPT'S DISADVANTAGE.

2. WE HAVE REPORTED DE BORCHGRAVE'S REACTION OF ARMY IN
ONE SECTOR OF FRONT. THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CASE ELSEWHERE,
BUT CANNOT EXCLUDE IT. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SUGGESTION THAT OTHER
SECTORS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY ARE NOT PLEASED BY CEASEFIRE.

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3. EDUCATED EGYPTIANS ARE ALSO REPORTED (BY OTHER EMBASSIES

AND JOURNALISTS) TO BE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CEASEFIRE. SOME SAY THAT CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AT THIS POINT WOULD TOTALLY NEGATE PURPOSE OF WAR, SINCE THERE IS NO CONCRETE LINKAGE BETWEEN CEASEFIRE AND FINAL SOLUTION WHICH WOULD RETURN TO EGYPT ITS LANDS LOST IN 1967. IN GENERAL, THESE EGYPTIANS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE AWARE OF EXTENT OF ISRAELI INCURSION INTO WEST BANK OF CANAL, AND THEREFORE BASE THEIR DISSATISFACTION ON AN ASSUMPTION OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY VICTORY. THIS VIEW WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CHANGE AS AND WHEN IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION (MOST RECENT GOE COMMUNIQUE NOTES DETERIORATION OF MILITARY SITUATION, BUT BLAMES IT ON MASSIVE ISRAELI CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING NIGHT OF OCTOBER 22/23), BUT WE DO NOT ESTIMATE THAT THEIR AFFECTION FOR SADAT AND GOE WILL INCREASE.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHERE THIS WILL LEAD. IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SADAT IS FACED WITH POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE SITUATION WHICH MAY BE TRANSLATED INTO REAL PRESSURES BOTH ON CEASEFIRE AND ON HIS POSITION.

SMITH

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